features of the group: (1) that they are true ascomycetes, and (2) that they possess a sexual method of reproduction. The group is an obscure one, its members living parasitic on insects and having a simple structure and microscopic size, but inconspicuous as the group is, it is likely to throw much light on the origin and relations of some of the higher fungi, and is certain, at least, to throw doubt on the Brefeldian conclusions regarding the origin of the ascomycetes. American botany is indebted to the author for his laborious work on this unknown group of fungi and for his elaborate monograph. L. M. U.

Ferns and Fern Allies of New England. By Raynal Dodge. Pp. 52. Binghamton, N. Y., Willard N. Clute & Co. 1896.

This little handbook, which can be slipped into the pocket, will be a convenient companion for fern-hunters in the region which it covers. It also indicates a renewal of interest in the popular study of these plants which, in the past twenty years, has been of much service in bringing to light the fuller knowledge of their distribution and variation. Two species of *Isoetes* are described, and a series of field notes on these plants is included; these are timely, since this obscure group, more than any other, is in need (1) of careful and extended observation in the field, and (2) careful study under variation of water supply with special reference to its influence on the development of structures that have been used hitherto in classification, and (3) of comparative study in anatomical structures and their illustration. To none who have made greater or less contributions to the knowledge of this group in America has this possibility of the study of fresh material been possible, and there is much to be gained by those to whom the opportunity is open to study habits as well as comparative structures. If this booklet succeeds in stimulating this sort of observation it will have done a good work. L. M. U.

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 27, 1897.

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Rusby occupied the chair. There were twenty-one persons present.

Dr. H. Zahlbrückner, Natur-historische Hof-Museum, Vienna, Austria, was elected a corresponding member.

The scientific program of the evening was as follows :

By Dr. H. H. Rusby, "Remarks on some Solanaceae.'

By Mr. A. A. Tyler, "The Nature and Origin of Stipules."

By Dr. J. K. Small, "*Aster gracilis* Nuttall."

By Mr. Geo. V. Nash, "New and Noteworthy American Grasses."

Dr. Rusby exhibited a number of Solanaceous plants and remarked upon their relationships. It was pointed out that the general appearance and chemical and physiological characteristics of these plants frequently fail to indicate their structural affinities. *Cestrum* and *Sessea*, *Atropa* and *Datura* were cited as illustrations of the separation of otherwise naturally related groups through their possession respectively of baccate and capsular fruits. *Nicotiana* was referred to as connecting those tribes having a radial symmetry, with the tribe Salpiglossidae, having a bilateral symmetry and thus connecting the family with the Labiales. The Androcera and Andropeda sections of the genus *Solanum* were instances of the appearance of this bilateral symmetry in a widely separated part of the family where radial symmetry is otherwise the rule.

Dr. Britton discussed the subject and remarked upon this instance of development of two divisions of a group along different lines, in this case through baccate and capsular fruits. He cited similar parallelisms in other families tending to produce different resulting characters, as in Capparidaceae; and remarked that an indication of the lines along which these genera have been derived may be indicated by these characters.

The second paper by Mr. A. A. Tyler on "The Nature and Origin of Stipules," presented conclusions derived from studies extending through several years. The subject was treated at length in the light of geological, morphological, anatomical and developmental evidence. Discussing Mr. Tyler's paper, which will shortly be published in full, Dr. Britton remarked that the outcome of this very important paper is most interesting; it emphasizes the significance of basal scales and those of buds and rootstocks; and it is the more convincing from the nicety with

which it accords with the seemingly haphazard distribution of stipules widely but irregularly here and there through the vegetable kingdom.

Of the remaining papers, that by Mr. Nash was read by title; it is printed in the January BULLETIN; that by Mr. Small was, on account of the lateness of the hour, deferred until the next meeting.

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